



**Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG)  
Joint Powers Authority Agenda**

**Friday, October 8, 2021, 8:30 a.m.**

**437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes**

**Members of the Board**

City of Bishop Councilmember Karen Schwartz - Chair,  
Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember John Wentworth - Vice Chair,  
Mono County Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County Supervisor Bob Gardner,  
Inyo County Supervisor Jeff Griffiths, Inyo County Supervisor Dan Totheroh,  
City of Bishop Councilmember Jim Ellis, Town of Mammoth Lakes Councilmember Lynda Salcido

NOTE: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Assistant Clerk at (760) 965-3615. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Town to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 13.102-35.104 ADA Title II)

NOTE: Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Town Offices located at 437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite 230 during normal business hours. Such documents are also available on the ESCOG website at [www.escog.ca.gov](http://www.escog.ca.gov) subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

NOTE: This will be a Zoom meeting and will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361) which amends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act. It is strongly encouraged that you watch this meeting on the Town of Mammoth Lakes' (TOML) website at [www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](http://www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov) or on TOML's local government cable channel 18. Public comments may be submitted to the ESCOG Clerk at [clerk@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov](mailto:clerk@townofmammothlakes.ca.gov) before and during the meeting or may be made via Zoom or in person.

**ZOOM INFORMATION**

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join. <https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/92421427651>

Or join by phone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 **\*To raise your hand press \*9, To Unmute/Mute press \*6**

Webinar ID: 924 2142 7651

International numbers available: <https://monocounty.zoom.us/j/92421427651>

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Notice to the Public: This time is set aside to receive public comment on matters not calendared on the agenda. When recognized by the Chair, please state your name and address for the record and please limit your comments to three minutes. Under California law the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Board is prohibited from generally discussing or taking action on items not included in the agenda; however, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Board may briefly respond to comments or questions from members of the public. Therefore, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Board will listen to all public comment but will not generally discuss the matter or take action on it.

**4. ASSEMBLY BILL 361 (AB 361) FINDINGS**

**4.1. Discussion and direction regarding Brown Act Compliance under AB 361**

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

**5.1. Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 13, 2021**

**5.2. Consideration of Amendment #1 to the Agreement Regarding Clerical Services to be Provided by the Town of Mammoth Lakes to the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority**

**5.3. Consideration of A Resolution of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Designating the Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Office as the Office Place of Business for the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments**

**6. POLICY MATTERS**

**6.1. Consideration of Contract Amendment #2 for Administrative Services with Elaine Kabala**

**6.2. Consideration of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator Project Consultants and Formation of a Consultant Selection Subcommittee**

**6.3. Request Budget Modification to Obtain Professional Services to Provide Updates to the ESCOG Website and Email and Communication Platforms**

**6.4. Consideration of A Resolution of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Authorizing an Application for Funding through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for the Eastern Sierra Connected Communities Trails Network**

**6.5. Receive an Update on the Fall 2021 Regional Housing Roundtable**

**6.6. Receive an Update on the Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative**

**7. BOARD MEMBER/AGENCY REPORTS**

Informational reports from Member Agency representatives on committees, commissions, and organizations; general reports on Board Member activities

**8. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The ESCOG will adjourn to the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on December 10, 2021.



## **Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) Joint Powers Authority Agenda**

### **STAFF REPORT**

**To:** ESCOG Joint Powers Authority  
**From:** Grace Chuchla, ESCOG Counsel  
**Subject:** Consideration of a resolution regarding virtual meetings for the protection of public health pursuant to AB 361  
**Meeting date:** August 13, 2021  
**Prepared on:** August 3, 2021  
**Attachments:** A) Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Regarding the Need for Continued Virtual Meetings to Protect Public Health

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### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

Since March 2020, legislative bodies in California have been permitted to meet virtually without following certain requirements of the Brown Act due to an executive order from Governor Newsom. That executive order expires on September 30, 2021, and in its place, the Governor has signed AB 361, which modifies the Brown Act in a manner to permit continued virtual meetings in certain circumstances.

### **ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:**

In order to meet virtually under AB 361, certain requirements must be met. These requirements are:

1. The Governor has declared a state of emergency  
**AND**
2. Local officials have recommended social distancing recommendations **OR** the legislative body itself makes a finding that meeting remotely is necessary for health reasons  
**AND**
3. The legislative body makes a finding every 30 days that they've assessed the situation and still determine remote meetings to be necessary

Currently, the jurisdictions that make up ESCOG meet the requirements for ESCOG to hold virtual meetings. There is a declared state of emergency at the state level related to COVID-19. The health officers for both Inyo and Mono Counties have also recommended social distancing. Thus, a resolution is being presented today so that your Board may consider continuing virtual meetings for ESCOG.

If your Board chooses to meet virtually going forward, because ESCOG only meets every two months, ESCOG will not be able to comply with requirement #3 above. Staff would therefore also like to discuss with your Board the scheduling of special meetings between ESCOG's regular meetings so that ESCOG can make the necessary findings on the required 30-day schedule to permit continued virtual meetings.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

None.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

ESCOG Counsel Grace Chuchla has reviewed this item and found that it complies with the law.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Board adopt a resolution regarding virtual meetings for the protection of public health pursuant to AB 361.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-\_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGARDING THE NEED FOR CONTINUED VIRTUAL MEETINGS TO  
PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH**

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to threaten the health and safety of communities within ESCOG’s jurisdiction since its inception in March 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Newsom has declared a state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Health Officers for Inyo and Mono Counties have recommended social distancing and continued virtual meetings as a means to limit the spread of COVID-19, particularly the highly contagious Delta variant. These recommendations are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of ESCOG that

1. The Board has considered the circumstances of the state of emergency related to COVID-19 and declared by Governor Newsom.
2. The Board finds that the above-mentioned state of emergency directly impacts the ability of ESCOG to meet safely in person because in person meetings, particularly with the public present, increase the likelihood that COVID-19 will be transmitted throughout the community.
3. Local officials—specifically the Health Officers of Inyo and Mono Counties—continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Schwartz  
Chairperson



## MONO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### Public Health

P.O. BOX 476, BRIDGEPORT, CA 93517 PHONE (760) 932-5580 • FAX (760) 932-5284

P.O. BOX 3329, MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546 PHONE (760) 924-1830 • FAX (760) 924-1831

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Bryan Wheeler, Director of Public Health

Re: Recommendation regarding Social Distancing and Virtual Meetings

Both Mono County “covering” Health Officer Dr. Rick Johnson and I strongly recommend that physical/social distancing measures continue to be practiced throughout our Mono County communities, including at meetings of the Board of Supervisors and other County-related legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act, to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Whether vaccinated or not, positive individuals are contracting the Delta variant and infecting others in our communities. Social distancing and masking are crucial mitigation measure to prevent the disease’s spread. Virtual board meetings allow for the participation of the community, county staff, presenters, and board members in a safe environment, with no risk of contagion. It is recommended that legislative bodies in Mono County implement fully-remote meetings to the extent possible.

If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me. We will continue to evaluate this recommendation on an ongoing basis and will communicate when there is no longer such a recommendation with respect to meetings for public bodies.



**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

*Public Health, Suite 203-C  
1360 N. Main Street, Bishop CA 93514  
TEL: (760) 873-7868 FAX: (760) 873-7800*

**Marilyn Mann, Director**  
*mmann@inyocounty.us*

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Date: September 23, 2021

To: Inyo County Local Agency Governing Bodies

From: Dr. James Richardson, Inyo County Public Health Officer

Re: Continued Recommendation Re Social Distancing and Remote Meetings

In order to help minimize the spread of COVID-19, I recommend that physical/social distancing measures continue to be practiced throughout our Inyo County communities, including at public meetings of the Board of Supervisors and other public agencies. Individuals continue to contract COVID-19 and spread the infection throughout our communities. Social distancing, masking, and vaccination are crucial mitigation measures to prevent the disease's spread. Remote public agency meetings allow for the participation of the community, agency staff, presenters, and board members in a safe environment, with no risk of contagion. As such, and since this disease negatively and directly impacts the ability of public agencies to conduct public meetings safely in person, it is my recommendation that local public agencies conduct their public meetings remotely.

This recommendation will remain in place until further notice.

Dr. James A. Richardson  
Inyo County Health Officer





## **Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) - Joint Power Authority (JPA)**

### **Minutes of Regular Meeting**

**August 13, 2021, 8:30 a.m.**

**437 Old Mammoth Road, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes**

Members Present: Chair Karen Schwartz, Vice Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Dan Totheroh, Board Member Jim Ellis

Members Absent: Board Member Lynda Salcido

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#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Karen Schwartz called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. in the Council Chamber, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes. Members of the Board joined the meeting via videoconference.

#### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Karen Schwartz led the flag salute.

#### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Quantified Ventures (QV) Associate Director Laura Drescher said that QV had been working with the Inyo National Forest (INF) regarding funding and financing for campgrounds and reported that QV would complete their business plan next month. Ms. Drescher also reported that they had submitted an application for a second round of funding available from the Innovative Finance for National Forests (IFNF) program through collaboration with the National Forest Foundation, the Forest Service and the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Inc. for a future phase of the project. She said that if awarded the second funding, they would look forward to implementing the business plan and engaging with the ESCOG.

#### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Board Member Jeff Griffiths  
Seconded by Vice Chair John Wentworth

Approve the Consent Agenda.

For (6): Chair Karen Schwartz, Vice Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, and Board Member Jim Ellis

Abstain (1): Board Member Dan Totheroh

Absent (1): Board Member Lynda Salcido

Carried (6 to 0)

##### **4.1 Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 11, 2021.**

#### **5. POLICY MATTERS**

##### **5.1 Receive a presentation from Mr. John Urdi, Executive Director - Mammoth Lakes Tourism and Ms. Ashely Helms, Deputy Director, Airports – Inyo County regarding the Bishop Regional Airport**

Inyo County Deputy Director, Airports Ashely Helms outlined the information in the ESCOG Bishop Regional Airport (BIH) PowerPoint presentation.

There was discussion between Ms. Helms and members of the Board.

Mammoth Lakes Tourism (MLT) Executive Director John Urdi outlined the information in the ESCOG Air Service Update PowerPoint presentation.

Town of Mammoth Lakes Special Projects/Airport Manager Grady Dutton gave an update on the regional air service plan.

There was discussion between Mr. Urdi, Ms. Helms, Mr. Dutton and members of the Board.

##### **5.2 Receive an update on the CalFire Wildfire Coordinator Grant**

Administrative Services Contractor Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

Inyo County Emergency Services Manager Kelley Williams gave an update on the CalFire Wildfire Coordinator Grant application.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala, Ms. Williams and members of the Board.

**5.3 Consideration of A Resolution of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Designating Authority to Negotiate and Execute an Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to Receive Grant Funds in the Amount of \$3,384,239**

Administrative Services Contractor Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

Moved by Vice Chair John Wentworth

Seconded by Board Member Dan Totheroh

Adopt a Resolution of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Designating Authority to Negotiate and Execute an Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to Receive Grant Funds in the Amount of \$3,384,239 for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator.

For (7): Chair Karen Schwartz, Vice Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Dan Totheroh, and Board Member Jim Ellis

Absent (1): Board Member Lynda Salcido

Carried (7 to 0)

**5.4 Consideration to submit correspondence to the 2020 California Redistricting Commission regarding redistricting for Inyo County and Mono County**

Administrative Services Contractor Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report and discussed corrections to the staff report. Ms. Kabala announced that there would be a redistricting meeting on August 20th.

A public comment was received via email from California Redistricting Commissioner Jane Anderson and read into the record stating that numbers reported must now be formatted into usable numbers and have the prison population reallocated to their previous addresses for representation. Ms. Anderson reported that the official California census database would be ready in the third week of September and reminded member agencies to submit their Communities of Interest (COI) at WeDrawtheLinesCA.org or at the August 20th COI Public Input Meeting.

Legal Counsel Grace Chuchla spoke about the process of calculating census numbers and when the final data would be available to the public.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

Moved by Board Member Jeff Griffiths

Seconded by Vice Chair John Wentworth

Approval to submit correspondence to the 2020 California Redistricting Commission regarding redistricting for Inyo County and Mono County.

For (7): Chair Karen Schwartz, Vice Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Dan Totheroh, and Board Member Jim Ellis

Absent (1): Board Member Lynda Salcido

Carried (7 to 0)

#### **5.5 Discussion and direction on the Fall 2021 Regional Housing Strategy Roundtable**

Administrative Services Contractor Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

Staff was given direction from the Board to work with the stakeholders listed in the staff report to organize a half day Regional Housing Strategy Roundtable in the fall.

#### **5.6 Consideration of the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreational Partnership Memorandum of Understanding**

Administrative Services Contractor Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

Board Member John Wentworth recommended revising the language in the first sentence of section 2.12 of the draft memorandum as follows: The ESCOG will endeavor, upon approval and/or direction by its Board and the Boards of its four member agencies, and with consideration of its available capacity, to leverage its position as a regional entity to pursue funding opportunities that may not be accessible to other PARTIES whose jurisdiction is limited to one specific national park, national forest, county, city, town, etc.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

Moved by Vice Chair John Wentworth

Seconded by Board Member Bob Gardner

Approve the revised language defining responsibilities of the ESCOG in Section 2.12 of the Draft Memorandum of Understanding for Establishment and Participation in the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership as discussed.

For (7): Chair Karen Schwartz, Vice Chair John Wentworth, Board Member Stacy Corless, Board Member Bob Gardner, Board Member Jeff Griffiths, Board Member Dan Totheroh, and Board Member Jim Ellis

Absent (1): Board Member Lynda Salcido

Carried (7 to 0)

#### **5.7 Receive an update on the Sustainable Recreation Tourism Initiative**

Administrative Services Contractor Elaine Kabala outlined the information in the staff report.

There was discussion between Ms. Kabala and members of the Board.

#### **5.8 Update on COVID-19**

Board Member Jeff Griffiths gave an update on Inyo County's COVID cases and vaccination rates. Mr. Griffiths reported that Inyo County currently did not have a mandatory mask mandate in place and said that they had gone back to virtual meetings.

Board Member Bob Gardner gave an update on Mono County's COVID cases and vaccination rates. Mr. Gardner reported that Mono County did have an indoor mask mandate for everyone regardless of vaccination status and said that the County was pushing vaccinations. He said that there was a lab error last week that had recorded several false positives which required people to get retested.

Board Member Stacy Corless reported that cases were on the rise across the entire County.

Chair Karen Schwartz said that she hoped the COVID vaccine would receive FDA approval soon and hoped that the approval would encourage more people to get vaccinated.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

Discussion and direction regarding returning to in-person ESCOG meetings

## **6. BOARD MEMBER/AGENCY REPORTS**

Board Member Jeff Griffiths announced that Inyo County staff had moved into the new Consolidated Office Building. Mr. Griffiths said that the County was mourning the loss of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Clint Quilter and that they were looking for ways to honor him. He reported that Assistant CAO Leslie Chapman had been named as interim CAO.

Board Member Dan Totheroh reported that he had attended an affordable housing meeting yesterday and said that representatives from the Mexican Consulate were scheduled to visit Inyo and Mono Counties.

Board Member Bob Gardner announced that Mono County staff had moved into the new County Building in Mammoth and said that the public reopening had been pushed out due to COVID.

Board Member Stacy Corless reported that the Mono County Board of Supervisors had held a facilitated strategic planning workshop and said that they were still receiving updates on the Mountain View fire recovery efforts. She said that many community members were still struggling as a result of fire.

Board Member Jim Ellis thanked Administrative Services Contractor Elaine Kabala for coordinating yesterday's meeting with the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GoBiz) Regional Business Development Specialist Derek Kirk and said he thought it was very productive. Mr. Ellis gave a housing update for the City of Bishop as well as an update on the Caltrans crosswalks project. He reported that the Line Street Bridge by the canal would be part of the airport component and was being rebuilt to about twice its current size.

Board Member John Wentworth gave an update on housing in Mammoth Lakes, announced that the Town Council had approved a trial agreement with Bird Scooters, and said that recreation numbers in Mammoth were similar to last summer. Mr. Wentworth gave his thoughts on yesterday's GoBiz meeting with Derek Kirk.

Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Manager Dan Holler gave an update on Caltrans safety improvement grants for crosswalk signalization on Highway 203, updated bus stops, and Multi-Use Paths (MUPs). Mr. Holler also spoke about tree harvesting in the fall.

There was discussion among members of the Board.

**7. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no requests for future agenda items.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned in memory of Clint Quilter at 11:00 a.m. to the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on October 8, 2021.

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Angela Plaisted, Assistant Clerk



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** ESCOG Joint Powers Authority

**From:** Elaine Kabala, ESCOG Staff

**Subject:** Amendment #1 to the Agreement Regarding Clerical Services to be Provided by the Town of Mammoth Lakes to the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority (ESCOG)

**Meeting date:** October 8, 2021

**Prepared on:** September 28, 2021

**Attachments:** A) Amendment #1 to the Agreement Regarding Clerical Services to be Provided by the Town of Mammoth Lakes to the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority (ESCOG)

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### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

The ESCOG JPA has the need to establish a place of business and physical address in to conduct certain business actions. The ESCOG JPA currently contracts clerical services with the Town of Mammoth Lakes per the Agreement Regarding Clerical Services to be Provided by the Town of Mammoth Lakes to the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority ("the Agreement"), entered into on July 1, 2020. One of the clerical responsibilities of the under the Agreement is to provide mail services for the ESCOG JPA.

Staff has consulted with the Town of Mammoth Lakes regarding the attached agreement amendment to add the following services to be provided by the Town:

1. Serve as the place of business and physical address for the ESCOG

Eastern Sierra Council of Governments  
c/o Town of Mammoth Lakes  
437 Old Mammoth Road, Ste. 230 #1609  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

2. The storage of hard copy document related to ESCOG's work.



**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

There are no budget impacts associated with this agreement amendment.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

ESCOG Counsel Grace Chuchla has reviewed this item and found that it complies with the law.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the ESCOG Board approve Amendment #1 to the Agreement Regarding Clerical Services to be Provided by the Town of Mammoth Lakes to the ESCOG.

Attachment A

**AMENDMENT #1 TO THE  
AGREEMENT REGARDING CLERICAL SERVICES TO BE  
PROVIDED BY THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES  
TO THE EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY (ESCOG)**

This Agreement is entered into by and between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority ("ESCOG") and the Town of Mammoth Lakes, a municipal corporation ("the Town").

**Recitals:**

A. On July 1, 2020, ESCOG and the Town entered into an Agreement Regarding Clerical Services to be Provided by the Town of Mammoth Lakes to the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority ("the Agreement").

B. ESCOG and the Town wish to amend the Agreement as set forth below:

Add the following to the list of services to be provided by the Town as set forth in paragraph 1:

- a. Serving as the place of business / physical address for ESCOG as follows:

Eastern Sierra Council of Governments  
c/o Town of Mammoth Lakes  
437 Old Mammoth Road, Ste. 230 #1609  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

- b. The storage of hard copy document related to ESCOG's work.

All other terms and conditions of the Agreement are to remain the same.

Attachment A

EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, a joint powers authority	TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, a municipal corporation
By: _____ Karen Schwartz, Chair ESCOG Board of Directors	By: _____ Bill Sauser Town Mayor
Date: _____	Date: _____
APPROVED AS TO FORM:  _____	APPROVED AS TO FORM:  _____
ESCOG Counsel	Town Attorney



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** ESCOG Joint Powers Authority

**From:** Elaine Kabala, ESCOG Staff

**Subject:** Resolution of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Designating the Town of Mammoth Lakes as the Place of Business and Physical Address for the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority

**Meeting date:** October 8, 2021

**Prepared on:** September 29, 2021

**Attachments:** A) Resolution of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Designating the Town of Mammoth Lakes as the Place of Business and Physical Address for the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority

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### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

The ESCOG JPA has the need to establish a place of business and physical address in to conduct certain business actions.

The attached resolution designates the Town of Mammoth Lakes as the place of business and physical address of the ESCOG as follows:

Eastern Sierra Council of Governments  
c/o Town of Mammoth Lakes  
437 Old Mammoth Road, Ste. 230 #1609  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

### **BUDGET IMPACTS:**

There are no budget impacts associated with this agreement amendment.

### **LEGAL REVIEW:**

ESCOG Counsel Grace Chuchla has reviewed this item and found that it complies with the law.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff requests the ESCOG Board adopt the Resolution of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Designating the Town of Mammoth Lakes as the Place of Business and Physical Address for the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF THE EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
DESIGNATING THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES AS THE PLACE OF  
BUSINESS AND PHYSICAL ADDRESS FOR THE EASTERN SIERRA  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

**WHEREAS**, the ESCOG desires to establish a place of business and physical address, and

**WHEREAS**, ESCOG entered into an Agreement Regarding Clerical Services to be Provided by the Town of Mammoth Lakes to the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Joint Powers Authority (“the Agreement”); and

**WHEREAS**, ESCOG desires to amend the Agreement to establish the Town of Mammoth Lakes as the official place of business and physical address for the ESCOG.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of ESCOG

1. Designates the Town of Mammoth Lakes as the place of business and physical address of the ESCOG as follows:

Eastern Sierra Council of Governments  
c/o Town of Mammoth Lakes  
437 Old Mammoth Road, Ste. 230 #1609  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 8th day of October, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Schwartz  
Chair



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** ESCOG Joint Powers Authority

**From:** Elaine Kabala, ESCOG Staff

**Subject:** Amendment Number 2 to the Agreement Between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and Elaine Kabala for the Provision of Administrative Services

**Meeting date:** October 8, 2021

**Prepared on:** September 28, 2021

**Attachments:** A) Amendment Number 2 to the Agreement Between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and Elaine Kabala for the Provision of Administrative Services

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### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

At their February meeting, the ESCOG approved a contract for between the ESCOG and Elaine Kabala for administrative services from March 15, 2020 through September 15, 2021, unless sooner terminated. The proposed contact amendment (Attachment A) extends the contract for six months through September 15, 2021, unless sooner terminated.

Amendment No. 2 also amends the “Contractor” to be Eastern Sierra Planning, LLC instead of “Elaine Kabala,” for the provision of administrative services. It is understood by and between the parties that the amendment of Contractor to Eastern Sierra Planning LLC will not serve to alter the individual who is performing the work under this contract. All services shall continue to be provided by Ms. Kabala, but Ms. Kabala has organized a LLC under which she will now be operating.

No other changes are proposed to the original agreement.

### **BUDGET IMPACTS:**

The agreement extends the contact to March 15, 2022. No increase in budget is proposed.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

ESCOG Counsel Grace Chuchla has reviewed this item and found that it complies with the law.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the ESCOG Board approve Amendment Number 2 to the Agreement Between the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments and Elaine Kabala for the Provision of Administrative Services.



Attachment A

**AMENDMENT NUMBER 2 TO THE  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND  
ELAINE KABALA FOR THE PROVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (hereinafter referred to as "ESCOG") and Elaine Kabala (hereinafter referred to as "Contractor"), have entered into an Agreement for the Provision of Administrative Services, dated October 16, 2020, for the term from October 15, 2020 to March 15, 2021

WHEREAS, ESCOG and Contractor desire and consent to amend such Agreement as set forth below;

WHEREAS, such Agreement provides that it may be modified, amended, changed, added to, or subtracted from, by the mutual consent of the parties thereto, if such amendment or change is in written form, and executed with the same formalities as such Agreement, and attached to the original Agreement to maintain continuity.

ESCOG and Contractor hereby amend such Agreement as follows:

1. "Contractor" shall be amended to "Eastern Sierra Planning LLC." It is understood by and between the parties that the amendment of Contractor to Eastern Sierra Planning LLC will not serve to alter the individual who is performing the work under this contract. All services shall continue to be provided by Ms. Kabala, but Ms. Kabala has organized a LLC under which she will now be operating.
2. Paragraph 2 (Term) shall be amended to read as follows:

The term of this Agreement shall be from September 15, 2021 to March 15, 2022 unless sooner terminated as provided below.

All the other terms and conditions of the Agreement are unchanged and remain the same.

**ESCOG**

**CONTRACTOR**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print or Type Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print or Type Name

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
ESCOG Counsel

APPROVED AS TO ACCOUNTING FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
ESCOG Fiscal Services



## **Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) Joint Powers Authority Agenda**

### **STAFF REPORT**

**To:** ESCOG Joint Powers Authority

**From:** Elaine Kabala, ESCOG Staff

**Subject:** Consideration of the Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator Project Consultants and Formation of a Consultant Selection Subcommittee

**Meeting date:** October 8, 2021

**Prepared on:** October 1, 2021

**Attachments:** A) Request for Proposals to Provide National Environmental Policy Act Project Management and Project Implementation Preparation Services for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator  
B) Request for Proposals to Provide National Environmental Policy Act Services for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator

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### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

The Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) was awarded a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Proposition 1 grant on June 15, 2021 in the amount of \$3,384,269 for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator project under authority of the Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Accelerator (SREMP). The Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Program aims to increase local capacity for environmental planning in the Eastern Sierra by investing in dedicated professionals to build a locally based workforce in the area of environmental planning. The pilot project for development local environmental planning capacity to be funded by the grant is the Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project (ESCCRP), which is a landscape level restoration and fuels treatment project in the Mammoth Lakes area.

Staff is requesting the Board consider the Requests for Proposals (RFP) to secure qualified consultants to execute the scope of work described in the grant agreement, and establish a subcommittee to assist with consultant selection.

### **ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:**

As described above, the grant provides \$3,384,269 to the ESCOG for implementation of the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator. The Scope of Work broadly includes:

1. Project Management and Administration

2. Development of an Interdisciplinary Team (IDT)
3. Environmental Planning work including:
  - a. Obtaining permits
  - b. Botanical Assessments
  - c. Archaeological Assessments
  - d. Wildlife Habitat Assessment
  - e. Recreation Assessment
  - f. NEPA Scoping
4. Preparing the ESCRRP for Implementation
5. Preparing for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis
6. Development of a Monitoring Plan
7. Education and Outreach
8. Local Workforce Development
9. Finance and Marketing Plan

Staff has developed two RFPs for completing the scope of work: 1) an RFP for Project Management and Project Implementation Preparation Services; and 2) an RFP for National Environmental Policy Act Services for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator. The Project Management and Project Implementation Consultant would be responsible for project management and administration, assisting with selection of the environmental planning consultant and overseeing the environmental planning team for all NEPA scope of work activities, and all grant reporting requirements. The project manager would also be responsible for coordinating CEQA compliance preparation, public education and outreach for the project, planning for local workforce development for project implementation, and developing a financing and marketing plan for project implementation.

The environmental planning consultant would be responsible for NEPA studies, document preparation, and monitoring plan development. The RFP for the environmental planning team should not be noticed until the draft "Proposed Actions," which will constitute the NEPA project definition and the basis for the environmental analysis, are published. The "Proposed Actions" are currently being prepared by the Inyo National Forest under a separate Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant and are anticipated in December 2021.

In order to ensure the best qualified consultants, staff recommends the RFP for the project manager be noticed immediately to onboard a consultant to begin project work as soon as possible, including assisting with selection of the environmental planning team. Staff recommends the RFP for the environmental planning team be finalized and noticed once the "Proposed Actions" for the project are available.

The ESCOG is subject to public agency professional service procurement requirements. The RFPs for both project teams will be noticed for 30 days. Due to the ESCOG's bi-monthly meeting schedule, staff is requesting the ESCOG Board appoint a consultant selection subcommittee of not more than four Board members to allow for the Board to make a recommendation on consultant selection without disrupting the project schedule. Likewise, staff requests the Board authorize the subcommittee to review and approve agreements for the project management and implementation consultant and environmental planning consultant, and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute agreements with each consulting team upon recommendation from the ESCOG subcommittee.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

The grant award is for \$3,384,269. The allocated budget for ESCOG staff to administer the grant is \$123,790, plus \$5,000 in indirect cost recovery for each subcontractor, for a total of \$10,000.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

ESCOG Counsel Grace Chuchla has reviewed this item and found that it complies with the law.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Staff requests the ESCOG Board appoint a consultant selection subcommittee of not more than four Board members to allow for the Board to make a recommendation on consultant selection.
2. Staff requests the Board authorize the subcommittee to review and approve agreements for the project management and implementation consultant and environmental planning consultant.
3. Staff requests the Board authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute agreements with each consulting team upon recommendation from the ESCOG subcommittee.



**EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
Joint Powers Authority**

**Request for Proposals to Provide National Environmental Policy Act Project  
Management and Project Implementation Preparation Services for the  
Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator**

Proposal deadline: **Date, time, month**

Requesting Organization: Eastern Sierra Council of Governments

Contact: Elaine Kabala, Executive Director, [ekabala@escog.ca.gov](mailto:ekabala@escog.ca.gov)

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## Overview

On June 15, 2021, the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) was awarded a 2021 Proposition 1 Watershed Restoration Grant by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, under the Managing Headwaters for Multiple Benefits priority for the ESCOG's project titled the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator (The Accelerator).

The Accelerator aims to address long overdue capacity shortages in the region specific to environmental planning and compliance using the region's highest priority forest restoration project as a catalyst. The Accelerator will focus to build local environmental planning capacity and will complete environmental planning analyses for the Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project (ESCCRP), a 55,000 acre forest restoration project, using this new workforce capacity.

The Eastern Sierra Council of Governments intends to contract a qualified consultant to provide comprehensive project management services that include oversight of National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) planning services as a primary task well as continued engagement and leadership of the ESCCRP stakeholders. In addition to NEPA oversight, the Project Manager will also be tasked with advancing a parallel suite of tasks relevant to preparing the ESCCRP for implementation. This work will include but is not limited to; convening and facilitating quarterly stakeholder meetings, development of a sustainable financial plan for the ESCCRP, local workforce development, technical capacity building in the Eastern Sierra in support of vegetation management needs, outreach and education planning with a special focus on the needs of audiences of the ESCCRP.

The selected consultant will be responsible for project oversight, coordination, staff development, and management of all necessary subconsultants, completion of required quarterly reporting and final reporting, coordination with the Eastern Sierra Climate and Community Resilience Project (ESCCRP) stakeholders and ensuring field work and studies are completed to meet the requirements of the Scope of Work, particularly coordination with the Inyo National Forest to establish a regional IDT. The selected candidate will be responsible for ensuring the successful completion of the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator California Department of Fish and Wildlife Grant Agreement.

The ideal candidate will have intimate knowledge of the ESCCRP challenges and opportunities, as well as applied experience and demonstrated relationships with regional partners and key stakeholders.

The successful consultant will be selected through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The period of performance will be through March 15, 2025.

## **Eastern Sierra Pace & Scale Accelerator: Background**

Declining forest health across the West, coupled with a rapidly intensifying wildfire trajectory fueled by climate change, have continued to underscore the imperative need for increased pace and scale of pro-active vegetation management treatments across public and private land. The Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator will conduct environmental analyses for a landscape-scale forest restoration project through creation of a locally based Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) that will conduct third party NEPA for the ESCCRP and be available for similar environmental services on projects in the future. The new IDT will carry out all steps required to arrive at appropriate decision documents for NEPA. Together, the environmental review of the landscape-scale project and the new IDT are key components that begin to address forest restoration pace and scale needs of the eastern Sierra. The IDT is expected to coalesce to fulfil the NEPA requirements for the ESCCRP landscape-scale forest restoration project; however, the ESCOG intends for the IDT to establish local workforce and relationships necessary with the Inyo National Forest to facilitate third-party NEPA planning and project permitting in the future.

### **PACE: Interdisciplinary Team Development**

The Inyo National Forest (INF) is disproportionately disadvantaged when it comes to environmental planning on its approximately two million acres. With only one interdisciplinary team (IDT) for the entire forest, as opposed to neighboring forests with one IDT per district, the Inyo has long struggled to keep pace with environmental planning needs. Shifting budgets of federal resources toward fire suppression in conjunction with overall budget reductions have further curtailed the ability of the Inyo National Forest to respond effectively to the need for forest restoration at a scale commensurate with the risk.

The Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) recognizes that present pace and scale needs related to fire resilience and ecosystem health alone far outweigh the capacity of any single entity in the Eastern Sierra, and long overdue sustainable recreation planning, another important regional need, have also gone unfulfilled. Following the 2020 fire season, four non-profit organizations joined forces to request the ESCOG support a program of work to enhance forest health and sustainable recreation in the eastern Sierra. Dubbed the Sustainable Recreation & Management Program (SREMP), the resolution combines two funded programs in the eastern Sierra, the Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative (SRTI), and the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP). Both programs are positioned to yield project pipelines specific to their cause, all in need of environmental compliance work. This grant application is the first in the ESCOG's new SREMP program and will help harness the regional momentum and solve a fundamental need for environmental planning services.

### **SCALE: Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project**

The Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project (ESCCRP) is a 55,000-acre forest restoration project that aims to promote resilient landscapes, support fire adapted communities, and provide for safer and more effective emergency response. Awarded pre



planning funds by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in 2020, the ESCCRP recognizes irreplaceable ecosystem services are at risk in this important landscape. The project also addresses California's current wildfire trajectory and aims to intercept it, thereby safeguarding priceless ecosystem services and the communities that depend on them. The ESCCRP will restore resilience to the overstocked forest landscapes of two key headwater basins, the Upper Owens River and the Middle Fork San Joaquin River, an essential first step toward protecting the valuable resources in these headwaters.

### Contract Scope

The Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) intends to contract a qualified consultant to provide comprehensive Project Management services for Phase II Planning: NEPA for the ESCCRP. The selected consultant will be responsible for continued planning services for the Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project to include: facilitation of quarterly stakeholder meetings, development and early implementation of a comprehensive outreach and education plan, identification of additional CEQA planning needs, development and implementation of sustainable financial and marketing plan as well as local capacity building and workforce development in the eastern Sierra to support the desired increase of pace and scale of restoration project needs of the eastern Sierra. Further, the consultant will continue project oversight, coordination, and management of all subconsultants as required to complete comprehensive environmental planning (NEPA) services for the ESCCRP that culminate in a Federal Record of Decision preparing the ESCCRP for implementation. The Project Manager will also be responsible for completion of required quarterly and final reporting, and ensuring field work and studies of subconsultants are completed to meet the requirements of the NEPA process and the grant deliverables as outlined below.

A significant component of the project management for this phase of the project is the collaboration with the Inyo National Forest (INF) to establish a locally based regional third party Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) that aligns itself with the INF NEPA planning needs. The ideal candidate will have intimate knowledge of the Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project challenges and opportunities, as well as relationships with regional partners and key stakeholders.

The desired qualifications for a Project Management Specialist are described below:

#### Desired Qualifications for Project Management Services

- Applied project management skills specific to Sierra Nevada restoration projects
- Intimate knowledge of Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project challenges/opportunities
- Established lasting relationships with local land management agency and project partners
- Demonstrated experience with project management, including staff management, team building, accounting, and grant management

## Attachment A

- Demonstrated experience with NEPA and CEQA project planning
- Demonstrated experience and comprehensive understanding of fire and fuels management project planning and implementation.

### Activities and Project Deliverables

#### Task 1: Project Management

The Consultant shall be responsible for managing all project work is consistent with the grant agreement, drafting and finalizing quarterly project reporting and final reports, convening ESCCRP stakeholder meetings, coordinating all subcontracted work for NEPA environmental planning, project implementation preparation, outreach and education, ensuring appropriate permits are obtained, ensuring field work and studies are completed, and managing data management consistent with California Fish and Wildlife data management plan procedures.

The selected consultant will be responsible for overseeing the successful completion of the NEPA environmental planning, IDT development , project monitoring plan development, project implementation preparation (including workforce development for implementation), development of financing and marketing plans for project implementation, and outreach and education tasks as described in the attached grant agreement (Attachment A) and Environmental Planning Request for Proposals (Attachment B).

#### Task 2: Interdisciplinary Team Assembly and Team Building

The Consultant will oversee all other subcontractors and will be responsible for development of the IDT, in partnership with the Environmental Planning subcontractor and the Inyo National Forest Interdisciplinary Team (USFS). The USFS will mentor and work with IDT to ensure early alignment of Forest Service which will include policies, priorities, as well as resource and local area sensitivities within the project area in alignment with the new Land Management Plan. Federal staff support will include but not limited to the USFS providing content and review of position descriptions, help recruit, and make hiring recommendations for IDT members, and consult on any questions that arise from performance of NEPA work. USFS will mentor, help train and support team building, to optimize the new IDT and USFS alignment. The Consultant will work with the USFS will ensure that continued collaboration with the USFS occurs.

Task will include: working collaboratively with INF to draft position descriptions for IDT; recruiting and hiring IDT members; formal NEPA/CEQA training as needed; INF mentor training; team building field work exercise (ESCCRP), and; continued collaboration w/Inyo National Forest IDT.

### **Task 3 - Prepare Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project (ESCCRP) for Implementation**

The Consultant will coordinate CEQA planning needs in partnership with the NEPA planning consultant, develop strategies for local workforce development, and develop finance and marketing plan for when NEPA planning is complete. The Consultant will also be responsible for the project public education and outreach strategy development and implementation.

#### **Subtask 3.1 - Preparations for CEQA Planning Needs**

In partnership with the NEPA planning consultant, the Project Manager will assess additional CEQA planning needs, review current legislation to identify CEQA planning needs for Federally owned property, prepare a draft budget for CEQA planning needs for ESCCRP, and identify funding opportunity to support CEQA compliance work. The Consultant will provide maps of non-federal lands to be included in ESCCRP, and a Draft Scope and Budget for CEQA planning.

#### **Subtask 3.2 - Education & Outreach**

The Consultant will ensure public outreach regarding recreational facilities and activities within the project area. Public outreach will include local communities and visitors to the project areas. The Consultant will work with USFS Education & Outreach Coordinators, Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Planning (RFFC) Program, and ESCCRP stakeholders to develop outreach and education strategy for the ESCCRP. Consultant will create printed materials and media content which will include but not limited to:

- Fliers and mailings
- Dedicated project social media and web content
- Spanish translation of all created content
- Development of an Outreach and Education workplan

The Consultant is expected to hold real time group chats adapted for various target audiences and scientific lectures focused on forest restoration aimed at both residents and visitors.

#### **Subtask 3.3 Local Workforce Development**

The Consultant is expected to meet with local contractors and community leaders to identify business opportunities to meet the pace and scale needs of the ESCCRP. The Consultant shall provide a develop a Local Workforce Matrix that will but is not limited to:

- Identifying State and local assistance programs to aid in business expansion.
- Developing USFS long term fuels contracts to incentivize investments by local businesses.
- Working with local tribes to develop workforce programs.
- Identifying contractors for implementation work based on the ESCCRP

- The Consultant will prepare a Local Workforce Matrix.

#### **Subtask 3.4 - Finance & Marketing Plan**

The Consultant will develop a Long Term Financial and Marketing Plan for ESCCRP. The Consultant will work with the USFS and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to expand ecosystem services pilot project to include the Upper Owens River Watershed fuels work within the ESCCRP. The Consultant will work with local water district, fire district and Mammoth Lakes Town Council to identify development of local measures or similar tools which will be used to support fuels management. The Consultant will identify funding support ESCCRP long term by working with the Chamber of Commerce to create a program from which local businesses can support implementation of the ESCCRP. In addition, the Consultant will work with Mammoth Mountain Ski Area and Southern California Edison to identify appropriate investments from those entities based on benefits received. The Consultant will prepare a Long Term financial and Marketing Plan for ESCCRP.

#### **Project Management Deliverables (Tasks 1-3)**

- Quarterly Progress Reports
- Quarterly Invoices
- Data Management Plan
- Submission of Project Description Data to Eco Atlas Project Tracker
- IDT Position Descriptions
- IDT Training Material
- IDT Staff CVs
- Draft Scope and Budget for CEQA planning
- Outreach and Education Plan
- Local Workforce Matrix
- Long Term Financial and Marketing Plan for ESCCRP Implementation
- Preparation and Submission of the Draft Final Report
- Preparation and Submission of the Final Report
- Project Close Out Summary Report

#### **Desired Qualifications Supporting Staff to Project Manager**

It is expected that the successful consultant may have several supporting staff members and subconsultants that will help to complete all necessary tasks as described in Task 3 of the contract scope above. Experience for these staff will include a suite of skills specific to Task 3 and will require demonstration of skills specific to leading natural resource management stakeholder outreach and education programs in the Eastern Sierra, academic foundation in natural resources, comprehensive understanding of ecology of eastern Sierra and a wide variety of organizational and technical skills as dictated by SOW.

- Demonstrated professional network of Eastern Sierra stakeholders
- Proven track record of consensus building
- Solid foundation in science and application of ecology
- Demonstrated experience in public meeting facilitation

### Task 3 Deliverables: CEQA Lead Agency documentation

- Maps of non-federal lands to be included in ESCCRP
- Draft Scope and Budget for CEQA planning
- Outreach and Education Plan
- Local Workforce Matrix
- Long Term financial and Marketing Plan for ESCCRP

### Criteria for Competitive Applications

The evaluation criteria listed below will be used to evaluate proposals for the purpose of ranking them based on how fully each proposal meets the requirements of this RFP.

Consultants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets prior to final approval of the award.

1. **Understanding of the Scope of Work.** A statement demonstrating a thorough understanding of the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator and ESCCRP, as well as ability to comply with all reporting outreach requirements of the CDFW grant award. In addition, the proposal must demonstrate the capacity to oversee the NEPA Environmental Planning consultant and development of the IDT team, project implementation preparation including development of a workforce development plan, preparation and implementation of an education and outreach plan, and development of a finance and marketing plan for project implementation. In summary, the proposal must demonstrate the capacity of the Project Management team to ensure the successful completion of all tasks described in the CDFW grant agreement. Preference will be given to consultants who demonstrate the capability of building an IDT team workforce based in the Eastern Sierra for future NEPA collaboration with the INF. (25%)
2. **Technical Approach.** The proposed technical approach for fulfilling the scope of work must demonstrate familiarity with the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator and ESCCRP, IDT team building in partnership with federal agencies, and proficiency in understanding the survey and analysis requirements of the NEPA process. (25%)
3. **Qualifications of Proposed Personnel.** The proposal should describe relevant professional experience in the following areas: (a) experience dealing with Federal, state, and local governmental agencies, as well as national and local organizations involved with NEPA, and experience completing surveys, analysis or other services in support of NEPA compliance for the Forest Service, (b) Collaborative meeting facilitation and stakeholder driving planning processes, (c) management of complex, multidisciplinary projects (20%)

4. **Contractor's Past Performance.** Preference will be given to those who have specialized in management of restoration projects on U.S. Forest Service lands with experience to include writing resource reports for California forest ecosystems. In addition, the applicant needs to showcase its experience working cooperatively with the U.S. Forest Service, (with additional interest in partnering with the Inyo National Forest specifically). The proposal should include: (a) information on the principal investigator(s)'s past performance related to project management technical expertise you will be offering; (b) list recent (last 2-5 years) accomplishments, events and previous project management services (c) references including a list of three clients who have received services from your organization that is similar in nature to the proposed work; include names, postal and email addresses, and telephone numbers. (15%)
5. **Cost Proposal.** The cost proposal budget should be cost effective and should maximize the value for monies requested in the contractor's budget. **Proposal costs should be the minimum necessary to adequately achieve the stated scope of work.** (15%)

### Submission Requirements

Submission requirements will include two distinct and separate documents: 1) Technical Proposal, and 2) Cost Proposal.

Interested parties will submit proposals via email to Elaine Kabala (ekabala@escog.ca.gov ) and provide the information as described below:

1. Technical Proposal:
  - a. Narrative - Concise description of the work plan to include the following sections from the Criteria for Competitive Applications:
    - Understanding of the Scope of Work,
    - Technical Approach,
    - Qualifications of Proposed Personnel,
    - The Contractor's Past Performance.
    - Contact Information - Primary contact person, company name, address, phone, email, and website.
2. Cost Proposal: The Cost Proposal includes the proposal budget and budget justification.



**EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**Joint Powers Authority**

**Request for Proposals to Provide National Environmental Policy Act Services  
for the Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator**

**Proposal deadline:** Date, time, month

**Requesting Organization:** Eastern Sierra Council of Governments  
Contact: Elaine Kabala, Executive Director, [ekabala@escog.ca.gov](mailto:ekabala@escog.ca.gov)

## Attachment B

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### Overview

The Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) intends to contract a qualified consultant to provide comprehensive National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) environmental planning services for its Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program (SREMP) beginning with its top priority project, the 55,000 acre Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project (ESCCRP). Centered around the Town of Mammoth Lakes, the recreation hub of the Eastern Sierra, with severely declining forest health, and millions of dollars of built infrastructure and natural ecosystem values at risk, the project requires NEPA compliance services across nearly 80% of its total acres.

The selected consultant will be responsible for staffing and managing a full interdisciplinary team (IDT) capable of conducting the necessary studies and environmental analysis for required environmental compliance on Federal USFS lands, as well as conducting surveys needed on 10,000 priority acres to prepare them for immediate implementation pending completion of the NEPA decision. The desire of the ESCOG is to establish a professional relationship with this third party IDT, in an attempt to build long overdue environmental planning capacity in the Eastern Sierra. It is the ESCOG's intent that this IDT will be available for other future SREMP projects, and will help to address growing pace and scale needs in the region.

The successful consultant will work closely under the direction of the Project Manager, also retained by the ESCOG, to oversee the comprehensive work scope for this phase of project planning, and the team they build will serve as the basis for the ESCOG's ***Eastern Sierra Pace & Scale Accelerator*** grant awarded by California Department of Fish and Wildlife, under the Managing Headwaters for Multiple Benefits priority.

The NEPA analysis for the project area will describe site-specific management activities using a condition-based approach. A condition-based approach prescribes actions to be taken under specific conditions to achieve particular outcomes. Condition-based proposals typically include a set of management prescriptions/treatments, resource protection measures, and constraints that instruct forest managers where to apply different treatments depending on the conditions they find on the ground at the time of the project's implementation.

NEPA analysis using condition-based management must be specific enough to address issues associated with the project proposed actions (expected completion Feb 2022) and satisfy NEPA's site-specificity requirements. A condition-based approach does not mean that site-specific analyses are not completed. However, it does mean that there may be less geographically precise information available for analysis than a smaller project. This project covers a relatively large area (over 50,000 acres), and the entire project area cannot feasibly be surveyed before a decision is made. The necessary surveys would be completed prior to implementation of any treatment units. The environmental analysis would identify resources that would need surveys before implementation, and those resources that have sufficient information at the time of the analysis and would not need further surveys.

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One decision will be made for the entire project area, and that decision will allow for some flexibility, depending on conditions within each treatment area. All of the options for treatment will be analyzed in the NEPA analysis.

The specific areas to be treated will be prioritized after the decision is made, and the surveys and implementation will be phased based on those priorities. Ongoing monitoring of the outcomes of each treatment area, combined with adaptive management, allows for adjusting future treatments accordingly.

The successful consultant will be selected through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The period of performance will be through March 15, 2025, and will be expected to meet predetermined grant timelines for deliverables described below.

### **Eastern Sierra Pace & Scale Accelerator: Background**

Declining forest health across the West, coupled with a rapidly intensifying wildfire trajectory fueled by climate change, have continued to underscore the imperative need for increased pace and scale of proactive vegetation management treatments across public and private land. The Eastern Sierra Pace and Scale Accelerator will conduct environmental analyses for a landscape-scale forest restoration project through creation of a locally based Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) that will conduct third party NEPA for the ESCCRP and be available for similar environmental services on projects in the future. The new IDT will carry out all steps required to arrive at appropriate decision documents for NEPA. Together, the environmental review of the landscape-scale project and the new IDT are key components that begin to address forest restoration pace and scale needs of the eastern Sierra. The IDT is expected to coalesce to fulfil the NEPA requirements for the ESCCRP landscape-scale forest restoration project; however, the ESCOG intends for the IDT to establish local workforce and relationships necessary with the Inyo National Forest to facilitate third-party NEPA planning and project permitting in the future.

### **PACE: Interdisciplinary Team Development**

The Inyo National Forest (INF) is disproportionately disadvantaged when it comes to environmental planning on its approximately two million acres. With only one interdisciplinary team (IDT) for the entire forest, as opposed to neighboring forests with one IDT per district, the Inyo has long struggled to keep pace with environmental planning needs. Shifting budgets of federal resources toward fire suppression in conjunction with overall budget reductions have further curtailed the ability of the Inyo National Forest to respond effectively to the need for forest restoration at a scale commensurate with the risk.

The Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) recognizes that present pace and scale needs related to fire resilience and ecosystem health alone far outweigh the capacity of any single entity in the Eastern Sierra, and long overdue sustainable recreation planning, another important regional need, have also gone unfulfilled. Following the 2020 fire season, four non-profit organizations joined forces to request the ESCOG support a program of work to enhance forest health and sustainable recreation in the eastern Sierra. Dubbed the Sustainable Recreation & Management Program (SREMP), the resolution combines two funded programs in the eastern Sierra, the Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative (SRTI), and the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP). Both programs are positioned to yield project pipelines specific to their cause, all in need of environmental compliance work. This grant

## Attachment B

application is the first in the ESCOG's new SREMP program and will help harness the regional momentum and solve a fundamental need for environmental planning services.

### SCALE: Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project

The Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project (ESCCRP) is a 55,000-acre forest restoration project that aims to promote resilient landscapes, support fire adapted communities, and provide for safer and more effective emergency response. Awarded pre planning funds by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in 2020, the ESCCRP recognizes irreplaceable ecosystem services are at risk in this important landscape. The project also addresses California's current wildfire trajectory and aims to intercept it, thereby safeguarding priceless ecosystem services and the communities that depend on them. The ESCCRP will restore resilience to the overstocked forest landscapes of two key headwater basins, the Upper Owens River and the Middle Fork San Joaquin River, an essential first step toward protecting the valuable resources in these headwaters.

### **Contract Scope**

The Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) intends to contract a qualified consulting team to establish a locally-based ID Team that will work in partnership with the Inyo National Forest to complete third party NEPA to the standards and approvals required by the US Forest Service, focusing on the Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resiliency Project (ESCCRP).

In addition to standard expectations for a qualified Environmental Planning Consulting Team, including specialized expertise to complete all required NEPA studies and assessments, the ideal candidate will be familiar with the eastern Sierra ecosystems and natural resource management, have a working relationship with key partners and stakeholders – the Inyo National Forest in particular, and be familiar with the ESCCRP, as well as other project objectives of the ESCOG Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program (SREMP). The Environmental Planning Team shall also be responsible for facilitating public outreach and input, and Tribal Consultation, as is customary in the NEPA scoping process.

The desired qualifications for the Environmental Planning Team are described below:

#### Desired Qualifications Environmental Planning Consulting Team

- Demonstrated NEPA/CEQA planning knowledge and experience
- Experience leading programs and teams to accomplish environmental planning
- Strong knowledge of Eastern Sierra ecosystems and natural resource management issues
- Experience with landscape scale forest restoration projects such as the Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resiliency Project (ESCCRP)
- Proven commitment to building capacity in Eastern Sierra communities to improve natural resource management
- Experience with fuels and biomass project implementation
- Strong working relationship with U.S. Forest Service
- Public meeting facilitation
- Ability to interpret scientific data to draft technical reports
- Qualified specialist expertise in each of the following areas:
  - Air quality

## Attachment B

- Hydrology
- Soil science
- Archeology
- Wildlife Biology
- Botany
- Fisheries
- Public lands recreation
- Fire and fuels science
- GIS mapping and data analysis
- Monitoring plan development

### Activities and Project Deliverables

#### Surveys and Permits

The Environmental Planning consultant will work with the USFS to schedule and conduct all necessary environmental surveys for NEPA compliance. The Environmental Planning consultant will determine applicable Inyo National Forest land and resource management plan components and review for compliance and development of project design features for all assessments and surveys to be conducted. The Environmental Planning consultant will use the data and research gathered to recommend project design features or proposed action modifications or alternatives. The consultant will coordinate with the USFS to cover the silvicultural survey and reporting requirements contained within this project scope.

#### Task 1 - Botanical Assessment

The consultant shall complete a botanical assessment for the project area, which will include but is not limited to:

- Review known information about at-risk species habitat;
- Conduct vegetation mapping, biological surveys, and habitat assessments in priority areas;
- Prepare a Summary Survey Report and GIS---based maps;
- Prepare a Draft Analysis of At-risk Plants including habitat evaluation; and
- Prepare a Weed Risk Assessment Report and determine weed spread mitigations.

#### Task 2 - Archaeological Assessment

The consultant shall complete an archaeological assessment for the project area, with permissions and permits from the USFS and other agencies as needed, which will include but is not limited to:

- Surveying priority areas that do not have existing up-to-date records. Record sites utilizing "Historic Property Recording Specifications";
- Recording all newly discovered prehistoric, ethnographic, and historical heritage resources encountered within and directly adjacent to the project area(s);
- Re-recording or supplementing existing site records as needed based on discrepancies, alterations and impacts observed;
- Recording all heritage resource sites using State Historic Preservation Office site forms; and

## Attachment B

- Using USFS Region 5 standards to record all site boundaries (resource-grade Global Positioning System (GPS)).

The consultant shall assign CA State Trinomial numbers for all sites in project area for inclusion in the Final Report. The Consultant shall complete Archaeological Project Effects Analysis Report. In-Situ Artifact Recording procedures will be followed during both inventory and site recording activities. The Consultant shall coordinate with the USFS who will consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for concurrence on eligibility and effects findings. The consultant shall submit proof of the completion of the Archaeological Assessment and the Archaeological Project Effects Analysis Report to the ESCOG.

### Task 3 - Silvicultural Assessment

The Silviculture work required by this project will be conducted by the Inyo National Forest and will not require a specialist provided by the consultant in this field of study. However, other specialist from the IDT will be expected to work closely with the INF Forester to understand proposed actions for the ESCCRP so that adequate analyses are conducted.

### Task 4 - Wildlife Habitat Assessment

The consultant shall review known information about at-risk species habitat in the project area, conduct habitat mapping, wildlife surveys, and habitat assessments to the level necessary, and include State listed species as necessary preparation for CEQA. The consultant will consult with USFS who will consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to produce a Biological Opinion for species with Federal status.

The consultant will prepare the following information for submission for the CDFW Grant Manager Wildlife Habitat Assessment which will include but not limited to the following:

- Summary Survey Report and Geographic information System (GIS)---based maps.
- Draft Analysis of Species of Conservation Concern, which will include habitat evaluation
- A Draft Biological Assessment for species with Federal status, including threatened, endangered, or proposed threatened or endangered
- Biological Opinion

### Task 5 - Recreation Assessment

The consultant shall provide an analysis of recreational facilities and activities within the project area using existing GIS and other information. The consultant shall identify facilities and/or activities that have the potential for beneficial or adverse effects from wildfire as well as possible effects to the Project. The consultant shall provide a Recreation Assessment which will include but not limited to the Recreational Effects Analysis for the Project.

### Task 6 – Environmental Assessment, Conduct NEPA Scoping & Facilitate Decision Process

The consultant shall provide all necessary actions to produce National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance documents for review and finalization by the United States Forest Service (USFS) Responsible Official. The consultant will provide facilitation of stakeholder group public engagement, scoping, comment period, and tribal consultation. The Consultant will work with the USFS to complete the appropriate environmental studies and analyses for the ESCCRP for adequate environmental review and public scoping. It is expected that an Environmental Assessment will be adequate for this project. However, the USFS Responsible Official will determine if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is

## Attachment B

required. If a FONSI cannot be completed, and an EIS is required, any necessary additional work will be procured outside the scope of this project. The consultant will work with the USFS to finalize all NEPA compliance documents and facilitate the public participation and notification process for the final decision.

### **Task 7– Monitoring Plan**

The Consultant will work with the USFS to establish additional baseline monitoring requirements, in addition to the already established monitoring in the USFS Land Management Plan. The Project Implementation consultant will work with partners to maximize the learning opportunity the ESCCRP provides. The Project Implementation consultant will work with USFS to determine how the standard monitoring required covers the project area and develop a Monitoring Plan that will include but is not limited to:

- Identify established protocols and monitoring efforts by partners, adjacent landowners, and collaborating agencies.
- Work with USFS to implement Monitoring Guidance.
- Ensure the monitoring developed is within technical, financial, and staffing capability of the USFS and partners.
- Develop performance measures to be included with Monitoring Plan.

The Consultant will work with the USFS to determine what additional monitoring specific to this project will be required under the terms of the USFS Land Management Plan. The Project Management will work with United States USFS (in-kind) and Implementation Preparation develop monitoring protocols.

### **Contract Deliverables**

The Consultant shall provide the following deliverables:

1. All Required Relevant Permits
2. Botanical Assessment
3. Archaeological Assessment
4. Hydrology and Soils Assessment
5. Wildlife Habitat Assessment
6. Recreation Assessment
7. GIS Based Maps
8. Monitoring Plan
9. Draft and Final NEPA Documents

### **Criteria for Competitive Applications**

The evaluation criteria listed below will be used to evaluate proposals for the purpose of ranking them based on how fully each proposal meets the requirements of this RFP. Successful consultant may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets prior to final approval of the award.

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1. **Understanding of the Scope of Work.** A statement demonstrating a thorough understanding of the ESCCRP, team building, personnel management, field surveys and data analysis, and appropriate assessments as required by NEPA. Providing technical expertise in completing environmental affects analysis, and drafting NEPA supporting documents for Federal Agency review and approval. Preference will be given to consultants who are capable of building an IDT team workforce based in the eastern Sierra for future NEPA collaboration with the INF in alignment with the ESCOG's Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program. Additional credit will be given to applicants involved with active environmental work programs in the Eastern Sierra. (25%)
2. **Technical Approach.** The proposed technical approach for fulfilling the scope of work must demonstrate familiarity with the ESCCRP, IDT team building in partnership with federal agencies, and proficiency in understanding the survey and analysis requirements of the NEPA process, and demonstration of successful management of complex projects with high levels of technical expertise required. (25%)

**Qualifications of Proposed Personnel.** The proposal should describe relevant professional experience in the following areas: (a) experience dealing with Federal, state, and local governmental agencies, as well as national and local organizations involved with NEPA, and experience completing surveys, analysis or other services in support of NEPA compliance for the Forest Service, if any; (b) an understanding of conducting NEPA generally, and preparing NEPA documents, specifically; (c) biographies including resumes and/or vitae of key staff and their potential role in your proposed work area. If consultant intends to hire these key staff as an outcome of this award, a succinct staffing plan complete with PD's seeking necessary specialists and letters of interest from prospective hires will be accepted in lieu of team resumes (20%)

**Contractor's Past Performance.** Preference will be given to those who have specialized in NEPA compliance on U.S. Forest Service lands with experience writing resource reports for California forest ecosystems. In addition, the applicant needs to showcase its experience working cooperatively with the U.S. Forest Service and have examples of NEPA documentation that they have provided the agency. The proposal should include: (a) information on the principal investigator(s)'s past performance related to the NEPA technical expertise you will be offering; (b) list recent (last 2-5 years) accomplishments, events and previous services related to the NEPA technical expertise; (c) references including a list of three clients who have received services from your organization that is similar in nature to the proposed work; include names, postal and email addresses, and telephone numbers. (15%)

3. **Cost Proposal.** The cost proposal budget should be cost effective and should maximize the value for monies requested in the contractor's budget. Proposal costs should be presented in a 'time and materials, not to exceed' format. Proposal costs should be the minimum necessary to adequately achieve the stated scope of work. (15%)

### Submission Requirements

Submission requirements will include two distinct and separate documents: 1) Technical Proposal, and 2) Cost Proposal.

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Interested parties will submit proposals via email to Elaine Kabala (ekabala@escog.ca.gov) and provide the information as described below:

1. Technical Proposal (6-page limit for entire Technical Proposal):
  - a. Narrative - Concise (6-page limit) description of the work plan to include the following sections from the Criteria for Competitive Applications:
    - Understanding of the Scope of Work,
    - Technical Approach,
    - Qualifications of Proposed Personnel,
    - The Contractor's Past Performance.
    - Contact Information - Primary contact person, company name, address, phone, email, and website.
2. Cost Proposal: The Cost Proposal includes the proposal budget and budget justification.





## STAFF REPORT

**To:** ESCOG Joint Powers Authority  
**From:** Elaine Kabala, ESCOG Staff  
**Subject:** Request Budget Modification to Obtain Professional Services to Provide Updates to the ESCOG Website and Email and Communication Platforms  
**Meeting date:** October 8, 2021  
**Prepared on:** September 28, 2021  
**Attachments:** A) None

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### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

On June 11, 2021, the ESCOG Board approved the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget, which included \$30,000 to procure grant writing services if desired. Over the past year, Staff has identified the need to improve the ESCOG website, and email and communications platforms. Staff would like to procure a consultant to update the ESCOG website, and ensure reliable staff email and digital communications.

Staff is requesting a budgeting amendment of \$10,000 of the amount budgeted for grant writing services to be allocated to website and digital communications upgrades.

### **BUDGET IMPACTS:**

The budget amendment would allocate \$10,000 of the \$30,000 budgeted for grant writing services to website and digital communications upgrades.

### **LEGAL REVIEW:**

ESCOG Counsel Grace Chuchla has reviewed this item and found that it complies with the law.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff requests the Board amend the FY 21-22 budget to allocate \$10,000 for website and digital communications upgrades.



## STAFF REPORT

**To:** ESCOG Joint Powers Authority

**From:** Elaine Kabala, ESCOG Staff

**Subject:** A Resolution of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments  
Authorizing and Approving a Grant Application for the Sierra Nevada  
Conservancy Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Grant

**Meeting date:** October 8, 2021

**Prepared on:** September 28, 2021

**Attachments:** A) A Resolution of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments  
Authorizing and Approving a Grant Application for the Sierra Nevada  
Conservancy Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Grant

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### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY:**

On August 30, 2021, with support from the Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative, ESCOG staff submitted a concept proposal for the Eastern Sierra Connected Communities Trails Plan to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Grant program. On the September 24, 2021, ESCOG staff was invited to submit a full proposal for consideration by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for funding the project. The attached Resolution is a requirement of the grant submittal, which will be submitted on or prior to October 25, 2021.

### **BUDGET IMPACTS:**

The Eastern Sierra Connected Communities Trails Plan will build upon existing trail and soft-surface infrastructure in the region and will take advantage of conceptual routes that have been drafted by trail advocates, such as "The Sierra Camino," a proposed 550-mile trail from Taylorsville to Lone Pine, California, and the "Orogenesis Trail," which seeks to establish multi-use trail connectivity from Mexico to Canada via conceptual routes identified in the Eastern Sierra.

Eastern Sierra communities connected by a multi-use alternative to U.S. Highway 395 will be provided opportunities to collaboratively envision, create and sustain a vibrant outdoor-recreation economy and to ensure that connections are made to "schools,

neighborhoods, campgrounds, parks, retail centers and trailheads” as envisioned by a similar Trails Plan in Plumas County. Partners in the Trails Plan effort will include Indigenous Tribes; the ESCOG JPA; members of the ESSRP, including Alpine County, the City of Bishop, Caltrans District 9, the Bureau of Land Management, the ESCOG JPA, Inyo County, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mono County, the National Park Service (multiple units), the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Inyo National Forest Pacific Southwest Region (USFS Region 5), the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Intermountain Region (USFS Region 4), the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship and trail advocates from throughout eastern California. Estimated cost for the Trails Plan is \$350,000 to \$400,000, although the final budget is being developed as part of the final and complete project application to the SNC.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

ESCOG Counsel Grace Chuchla has reviewed this item and found that it complies with the law.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff requests the Board adopt a Resolution of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Authorizing and Approving a Grant Application for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Grant

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF THE EASTERN SIERRA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE  
SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY  
VIBRANT RECREATION AND TOURISM GRANT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, ESCOG has been authorized by its member agencies to begin a program of work known as the Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program (“SREMP”); and

**WHEREAS**, ESCOG desires to initiate a project known as the Eastern Sierra Connected Communities Trail Plan as a means to carry out the SREMP; and

**WHEREAS**, ESCOG desires to submit an application to obtain a grant to fund the Eastern Sierra Connected Communities Trail Plan under the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the grant, if awarded, will provide crucial support for ESCOG in carrying out the Eastern Sierra Connected Communities Trail Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of ESCOG

1. Approves the submission of an application to obtain a grant to fund the Eastern Sierra Connected Communities Trail Plan under the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Grant Program.
2. Authorizes the Executive Director of ESCOG, or his/her designee, to execute all documents related to the grant application and submit the grant application on ESCOG’s behalf.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 8th day of October, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Schwartz  
Chair